

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Air Force Officer Training	DATE DISTR.	21 May 1954
25X1A DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	632835

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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SOURCE:

1. Under Soviet command, the Polish Air Force has, since 1950, grown in such measure that, in spite of the numerous air force officers' schools, there is an insufficient number of officer cadres. The newly created air force regiments have inadequate cadres, i.e., about one half or, at most, two thirds of the required number, and, temporarily, there is a lack of planes and soldiers in the regiments as well.
2. Following the Soviet pattern, every pilot in the Polish Air Force will have officer's rank. At present there are three air force officers' schools in Poland, all of which have a two-year training program. The schools and their locations are:
 - a. "Oficerska Szkola Lotnicza" (O.S.L. No. 4) at Deblin, which is south of Warsaw on the Vistula river.
 - b. "Oficerska Szkola Lotnicza" (O.S.L. No. 5) at Radom, west of and not far from Deblin.
 - c. "Oficerska Szkola Lotniczych" (O.S.T.L. No. 7), an air force technical school, in Zamosc, southeast of Warsaw.

In addition to the above, there are between four and seven other schools for training air force specialists, technicians, and ground crews.

3. All of the officers' schools are being greatly extended in order to lodge the school cadres, their families, and students. Since 1950, the number of students in the schools has tripled or quadrupled. The officers' school at Deblin, for example, has more than 1,000 students; the latter, because of lack of housing facilities, were billeted in tents, even throughout the winter months. As of January 1954, however, all students were to be quartered in barracks and other buildings.

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4. Candidates for air force officers' schools are carefully selected by the Communist Party, the Z.M.P. and the "Liga Lotnicza" (Aviation League). Each candidate must have completed the "model course" and the aviation glider course, and must have attained at least a class B membership in the latter. The candidates' political views and their parents' past are carefully investigated.
5. Since 1951, all pomp and display connected with the commissioning of officers have been abolished: no mention is made in the newspapers of the graduation exercises, and no visiting dignitaries appear for the event. The graduations occur several times a year, i.e., the pupils do not graduate en masse, but rather small groups are commissioned at a time. Well-qualified students graduate before completing two years of study, others at the end of two years, but the greater portion remain at the schools a few months beyond the two-year course of study. At this pace it is estimated that the officer complement will not attain its maximum effectiveness before 1956; even in 1956 there will not be any reserve officers (pilots), inasmuch as the aviation clubs are not equipped to train pilots, particularly for jet planes and long distance bombers.
6. The commanders in the officers' schools are Soviet generals, and there is a large cadre of Soviet officers. Many lectures are already being given in the Russian language, and Sovietization of the Polish Air Force is given the highest priority in Poland.
7. Comparatively speaking, the air force volunteers far outnumber the volunteers for other branches of the service, but the fact remains that there is still an insufficient number of air force officers, and, notwithstanding the regime-spread propaganda about the advantages in the air force, the goal envisaged by the regime is far from realization; therefore, other ways and means to train pilots must be found. Compared with other branches of the service, living conditions in the air force are indeed excellent.

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